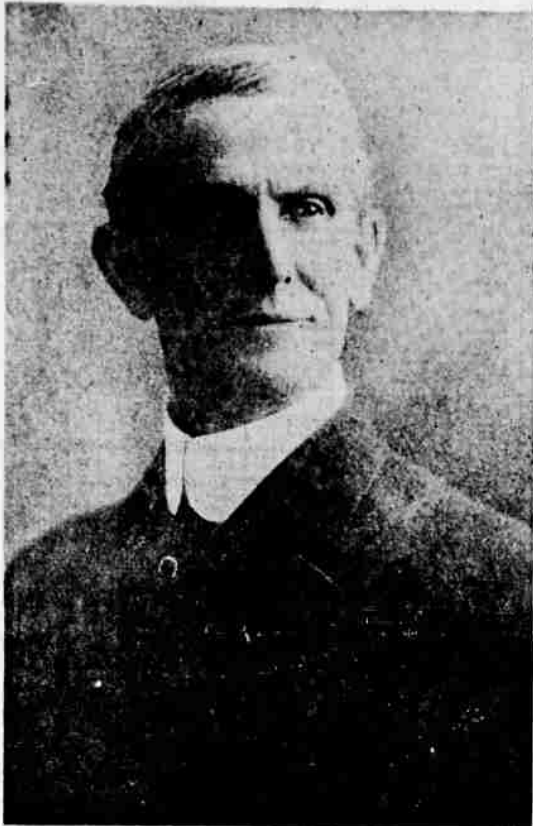


Edward Mead, Among the Last of the Northwest Barnstormers



EDWARD MEAD
Northwest Barnstormer

By ARTHUR S. TAYLOR
Southern Oregon College
Historian

"I remained at the smelter as a copper weigher, mingling with Senator Paris Gibson, Charles M. Russell, the cowboy artist, and spent my salary among the boys trying to drown my sorrows until Jan. 1, 1900.

"Then I joined Andy McPhee's bloodhound - Uncle Tom's Cabin troupe. I slept in a two-foot bunk with a real double-in-brass bloodhound actor for two weeks. Then I received my two weeks' notice because I could not do Eva and a bloodhound at the same time. I quit the Private Palace Car at Spokane with \$5 in my pocket and the thermometer at 20 below zero.

"I stepped lively and called all the theatres. While talking to the manager of the last one on the list (the toughest free and easy joint in the city), the telephone rang and the manager answered the same, then turned and asked me if my name was Meade. I answered 'yes' and he told me that someone wanted to talk to me at Davenport. I did not know that there was a town by the name, and thought he meant Davenport's famous restaurant. However, I took the receiver and said 'Hello.'

"When I had received my notice to quit the McPhee outfit, I immediately sat down and wrote to my old friend, Robert Buchanan, who recently organized a dramatic show in Spokane and was on the road. I had taken a chance and my letter had been forwarded. He now wanted an actor and had been chasing me by telephone all over Spokane. I was glad to hear him say, 'Is that you, Meade? This is Buchanan. When can you join? Fifteen and cakes. Will send ticket. Call at railroad office. Come on first train to Davenport, Washington.' I said, 'Goodbye,' hung up the receiver, and double-quickened it to the railroad office, got my ticket, and the next morning I was on board Buchanan's private car. When I shook hands with old 'Bob,' I remarked, 'Once more you have proven to be the Good Samaritan.'

Paid Each Month

It was stated that all fees and charges, except private hangar rents, be paid to the city monthly. Annual flat fee charges are to be pro rated and paid on a monthly basis.

Other recommendations approved included scheduling expiration dates of future leases to coincide with time schedule for proposed development and improvements to airport facilities and to avoid differences in lease terms resulting from changes in rate schedules, to establish and post speed limits for vehicular traffic and private parking, and to create a permanent airport committee to advise and work with the city administration. It was suggested that the committee include a member of the council, an airport commercial operator representative and one member at large.

A suggestion that bids be called to operate the tie down space was tabled.

In other matters concerning the airport, the application of Robert E. Osborn, 725 Pennsylvania ave., for a lease at the airport to operate a helicopter was accepted by the council on the condition his operation meets the requirements.

Army Reserve Plans Open House

Young men of military age and their parents will be guests of the second battalion, 414th regiment (BCT), at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, 701 North Columbus ave., Medford, from 8 to 10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, according to Lt. Col. John F. Rush, commanding officer.

Officers and men of the local reserve group will be ready to answer questions and supply information to those interested in serving the required military time close to home and for extra pay.

"This is the first time the Reserve program has been able to interview and enlist qualified men," Colonel Rush noted.

He invited all interested men and parents to join in the evening's program. He noted that the unit has vacancies for instructors, armorers, mess personnel and supply people. Vacancies, he added, are limited and will be filled during this month.

Capt. Ted McDaniels of the Medford Reserve unit has spoken before several youth groups recently and will be available Monday night.

Colonel Rush also pointed out that Sgt. Kenneth Olds is available at the Reserve Center for inquiries and information concerning military service.

somewhat chilly. We waited for the stage from another direction, hooked on four horses and proceeded to climb the mountain.

"I rode nearly 48 hours and billed Drewsey and Harney while the driver and passengers ate and changed horses. They were small places, like Westfall. I arrived in Burns the next night at 12 o'clock and realized that I had been experiencing something. I went into the barroom of the hotel, put dates on some half-sheet posters to send back by the stage driver to Harney, then asked the bartender for a drink of brandy. His name was Baldy and he asked me if I was a preacher. I said 'Put me to bed.'

"We did a wonderful business. Each one of us doubled many parts with all kinds of whisksers and wigs. Bob Buchanan said that we did not need more actors, but we needed more whisksers. We went north from Burns by stage to Canyon City, Oregon, then to Sumpter, Idaho, and by rails back to Weiser and the private car, which had been left there in care of the cook.

"The trip proved a financial and healthful success, so much that Buchanan took the car and troupe to Boise, sold the

car, purchased wagons and horses, and we covered 2,000 miles of mountain roads, through Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and California that summer."

Stuck in Mud

As Meade related, other things happened, too. "We got stuck in the Strawberry Mountain mud. The sheriff, four horses, two deputies, one murderer, and five horse thieves en route from Burns to the state prison at Salem, pulled us out."

What were the names of some of the plays? "The Fatal Wedding," and "Old Kentucky" were favorites in southern Oregon. "East Lynne" did good business in Ashland. "Beyond the Rockies" was another. "Edgewood Folks" was a rustic melodrama with plenty of slapstick. And you may be sure that Meade worked at one time or another in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Then there was "Thelma, a Tale of the Northland." Among the musical plays were "Two Merry Tramps," the "Sultan of Sulu," the "Rajah of Bhong." Of course, names were interchangeable. Sometimes the "Rajah of Bhong" changed into the "Sultan of Bhong" and vice-versa.

Those early barnstormers would play in almost any kind

of hall. Ed tells us in his book, "Doubling Back," that the accommodations were often miserable.

Play in Butcher Shop

"In one town we showed in a large butcher shop for a week, with quarters of beef hanging all over the room. At another place it was in a granary, with the audience sitting upon great piles of wheat. And still at another freight division point we actually gave a performance in a round house, and half the audience were Blackfoot Indians.

"The troupe went out to their camp, smoked the pipe of peace with the seven big chiefs while big chief Black Feather and his bride escorted us back to town where we gave them reserved seats on a board across the ash pit for a wedding present.

"At the end of the week, everybody in the troupe had Indian trinkets galore, which the Indians had traded for tickets at the door. They could not understand the plays, but enjoyed the knife fights and the music.

"We opened in Colfax, California, to light business, then railroaded to Nevada City and did not see a railroad or a train of cars for nearly 2,000 miles, except when we crossed the Southern Pacific in Ash-

land, Oregon. We visited Surprise Valley with its four little towns snuggling up to the east slope of the mountains; then to Lakeview, Oregon, for a five-day celebration of the Fourth. The celebration consisted of horse racing, bronco-busting, Indian war dances, and sheep shearing contests.

Over Livery Stable

"The Opera House was over a livery stable where the people purchased four square feet of floor space for a reserve seat to our show and furnished their own chairs. We did a rollicking business at Lakeview. The next year, we rented Charlie Snider's furniture store, built a plank stage, hung our own scenery, and the citizens packed to the doors every night.

"From Lakeview it was a long ride, 100 miles west, to Linkville, (Klamath Falls), then a small town of 600 inhabitants. Here we found a real opera house. The manager, John V. Houston, was in San Francisco, but we showed under the management of his brother.

"We soon went over the mountains to Ashland, Medford, and Jacksonville. We played at Jacksonville and Grants Pass and from there went to Crescent City, 100

miles distant over some of the most beautiful summer roads in existence. We opened on Monday night in Crescent City at Ender's Opera House.

"We traveled up the Oregon coast to Gold Beach, Port Orford, and Bandon, then to Marshfield, on Coos Bay. We went through Curry and Coos counties, but did not do very well. Hal the Healer had just been through Coos county, and picked up all the easy money.

"We crossed the Klamath Reservation to Crater Lake, played in an agricultural implement house, at Fort Klamath to well-educated and behaved Indians, then continued to Klamath Falls."

Ed Meade spent his later years in Marshfield, now Coos

Bay. For a time, he ran a little store, then had health interfered. It was at this time that he also wrote his book, "Doubling Back." He died in Bedford, Va., April 2, 1926, a few years after publication of his book.

RUMMAGE SALE

Fehl Building

Wed. Feb. 27

9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Women's Association

PHOENIX CHURCH

Collection of Items Call

535-2912 or 535-1147

Street Dedication Request Is Denied By Medford Council

A request to dedicate El Mar ave. was denied by the Medford city council Thursday night.

The dedication had been requested by Mrs. Madeline Inskeep, through her attorney, Harry C. Skyrman.

It was explained that the proposed avenue and the surrounding area had been platted in 1911. The street was later vacated, but the plat is still in force. It would be between Capital and Hillcrest ave.

Since the area was platted prior to being annexed by the city and prior to the city's subdivision ordinance, it was stated that if the street was dedicated, the city could not require them to meet present street standards for a subdivision.

Minimum Standards

According to the city's subdivision ordinance, minimum standards are set forth for streets used to separate land. This would not be the case in this situation, it was explained, since the plat has been on file for some time.

The vote was 6 to 2, rejecting the request. Voting for the request were William Singler and Joe Hosick. It was opposed by Robert Cunningham, Al Bradford, Robert Van Sickle, R. L. Baccus, Richard Travis and Terry Green.

In other action, the council approved a report from the airport committee concerning the fixed base and private operations at the Medford Municipal airport.

Adequate Parking

Flight operators are required to provide adequate parking, office space, and restroom facilities; maintenance shop operators would provide reasonable shop space for their services under cover in a clean and workmanlike manner; and all new operations will pay a minimum annual rental of \$500 in advance. It will be applied against rent owing the city for the first year, it was stated.

Each applicant of a new operation would have to establish financial and moral responsibility and integrity and qualifications as to training and experience to provide service.

Rental rates were set at 4

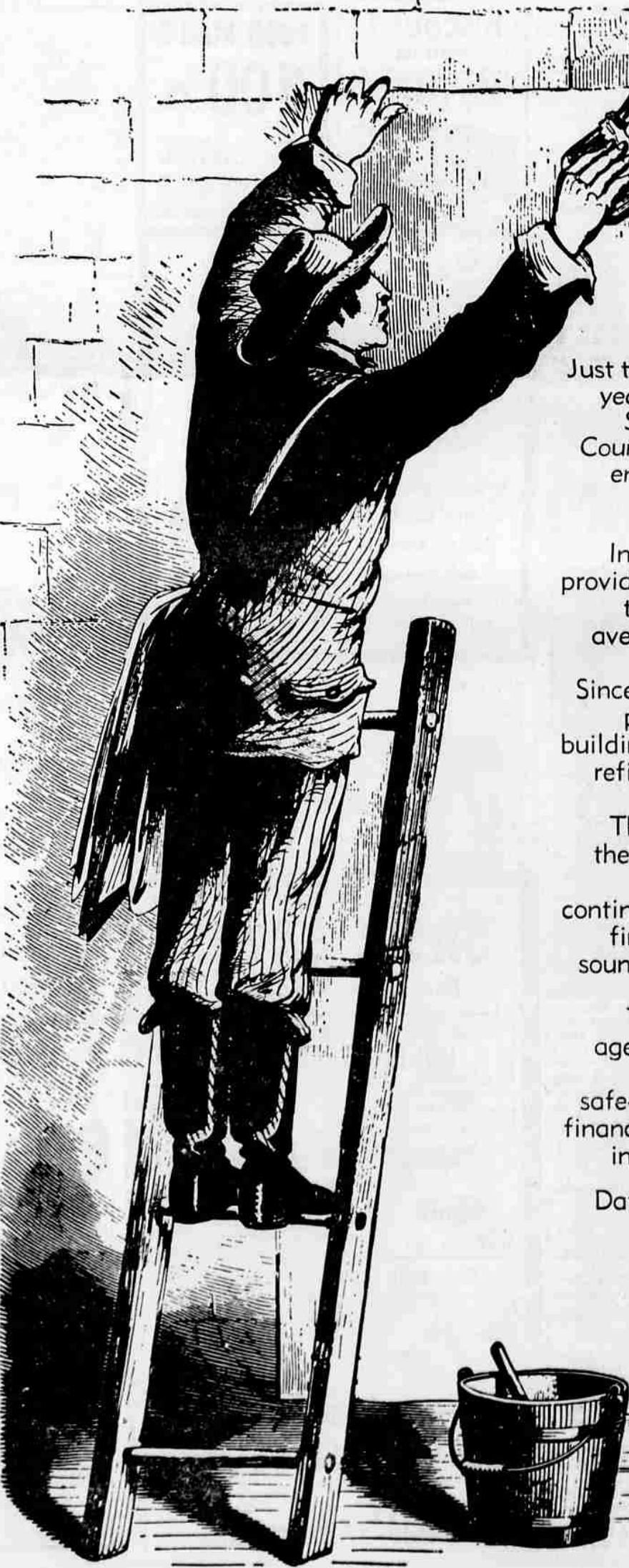
Flyway Survey Shows Increase

Washington —(UPI)—The Interior Department said Friday the 1963 annual survey of wintering waterfowl in the Pacific flyway states showed a slight increase over the 1962 count.

The number of ducks counted increased 10 per cent, but a 14 per cent decrease in geese was recorded. Tallies on coots were down 15 per cent, and on black brant, 18 per cent. A 42 per cent increase in whistling swans was recorded.

Compared with a 10-year average, Pacific flyway ducks, geese, brant, and swans were found to be 4 to 14 per cent above average.

The department said 28 per cent more mallards were observed this year than in 1962, principally in Washington and Idaho.



NOTICE

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Dated: February, 1963.

JCF

JACKSON COUNTY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSN.

Home Office—2 East Main, Medford
Ashland Branch—337 East Main, Ashland

18 Held Old Enough To Buy Cigarettes

Salem—(UPI)—If you're 18 you're old enough to buy cigarettes, the house committee on state and federal affairs decided Friday. It tabled a bill to raise the age to 21.

Advertisement

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